

PROVIDING FOR THE SALE AND LEASE OF SCHOOL AND OTHER
PUBLIC LANDS.

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| <p>Sec.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defines lands embraced in this act. 2. Commissioner of General Land Office vested with power to make regulations with the approval of Governor, etc.—Duties of Attorney-General, etc. 3. Appointment of agents, their duties, etc.—Classification of lands, etc. 4. More fully defining and describing the duties of agents. 5. Regulates sales of classified lands—To be sold to actual settlers only—Prohibits sales to corporations. 6. Notification of valuation of lands and manner of keeping record of same. 7. Regulates quantities, minimum prices, etc., of lands to be sold. 8. Privileges and restrictions relating to actual settlers in purchasing lands. 9. Sales to be made by Commissioner of General Land Office—Further regulates his duties—Also requirements affecting purchasers. 10. Conditions precedent to issuance of patents—As to sales by purchasers, etc. 11. Forfeitures for non-payment, etc. 12. Records and accounts to be kept by Commissioner of Land Office and Treasurer. 13. Timber lands, price and regulations by Commissioner as to sale of, or timber thereon. | <p>Sec.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Commissioner of Land Office to lease lands—Terms, etc., of lease. 15. Applications to lease, how made—Lease extended by the Commissioner—Sale of leased lands, etc. 16. Regulating payment of money due on leases and accounts thereof. 17. Terminating lease for non-payment—Lien of State to secure payment of rents. 18. Prescribing penalties for unlawfully appropriating, etc., said lands.—Extradition of offenders—Definitions, etc. 19. Section 18 not to apply to gathering stock for shipment, etc. 20. Governor may require Attorney-General to bring suits against persons unlawfully enclosing lands. Venue of such suits—Other duties of Governor. 21. Provides for gates, etc.—As to driving cattle herds in transit through leased lands. 22. Leasing or withholding from lease agricultural lands, etc. 23. \$40,000 appropriated out of school funds, etc., to defray expense of executing this act. 24. Leaseholds under this act exempt from taxation. 25. Rights of lessees under former laws. 26. Repealing clause—Books, etc., of Land Board to be deposited with Commissioner of Land Office. |
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CHAP. 99.—[S. S. B. No. 219.] An Act to provide for the sale of all lands heretofore or hereafter surveyed and set apart for the benefit of the Public Free Schools, the University, and the several Asylums, and the lease of such lands and of the public lands of the State, and to prevent the free use, occupancy, unlawful enclosure, or unlawful appropriation of such lands, and to prescribe and provide adequate penalties therefor.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:* That all lands heretofore or hereafter surveyed and set apart for the benefit of the Public Free Schools, the University, the Lunatic Asylum, the Blind Asylum, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the Orphan Asylum, shall be sold and leased under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. The Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby vested with all the power and authority necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act, and shall have full charge and direction of all matters pertaining to the sale and lease of said lands, and their protection from free use and occupancy, and from unlawful enclosure, with such exceptions and under such restrictions as may be imposed by the provisions of this act or by the Constitution of the State. He shall, as soon as practicable, adopt such regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution or this act as may be deemed necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this act, and may, from time to time, alter or amend such regulations so as to protect the public interest; but all regulations shall be submitted to the Governor for his approval before adoption or promulgation. He shall adopt all necessary forms of applications for sales or leases, and all other forms necessary or proper for the transaction of the business imposed upon him by this act, including the forms of leases, receipts, and acquittances, and may from time to time call upon the Attorney-General to prepare such forms, and it shall be the duty of that officer to furnish the Commissioner of the General Land Office with such advice and legal assistance as may be requisite for the due execution of the provisions of this act; and it shall be the duty of such Commissioner to call upon the Attorney-General for advice whenever there is any doubt as to the meaning of this act or any provisions thereof.

SEC. 3. As soon as may be practicable after the passage and approval of this act, the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall cause all the lands belonging to the several funds named in this act, which may be in demand for immediate settlement, to be carefully and skillfully classified

and valued; and for this purpose he may appoint, with the approval of the Governor, such number of competent State agents as may be necessary to effect such classification and valuation; and he shall cause such classification and valuation to be made of the remainder of such lands from time to time as the same may come into demand for actual settlement; and with the approval of the Governor he may allow such compensation to said State agents as may be just and proper, not to exceed the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per month and necessary expenses for subsistence. He may also appoint such other assistance as may be found necessary to accomplish such classification and appraisalment and the sale or lease of the lands; but no State agents or other appointments shall be made in the absence of an appropriation by law to cover such expenditure, and the State shall not be liable for any expenditure of this character incurred in the excess of current appropriations.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of such State agents as may be appointed under the provisions of this act, under such regulations and instructions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to classify all the lands belonging to the several funds mentioned in this act, as prescribed in Section 3, lying in the particular territory to which such agent may be assigned, into agricultural, pasture, and timber lands; and for this purpose they shall carefully examine the same, and after such examination they shall prepare an accurate plat of each section, showing the relative proportions of timber and open land on such section, and their situation, also the quality of the soil, the topography of the land, and the quality and kind of timber, and the streams and other sources of water supply, and their location, noting such streams as may be permanent water, and such other facts as may be important; and from time to time, as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, such agent shall prepare and forward to the Commissioner, with such plats, a tabulated statement of all the lands in any particular locality, with the value of each section; and such plats and reports shall be filed in the General Land Office as a part of the records of said office; but nothing in this section contained shall be construed to require a classification of lands already classified under former laws, if such classification is satisfactory to the Commissioner.

SEC. 5. When any portion of said land has been classified to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, under the provisions of this act or former laws, such lands shall be subject to sale, but to actual settlers only, and in quantities of not less than one hundred and sixty acres and in multiples thereof, nor more than six hundred and forty acres: *Provided*, That when there is a fraction of less than one hundred and sixty acres of any section left, such fraction may be sold; but lands classified as purely pasture lands, and without permanent water thereon, may be sold in quantities not to exceed four sections to the same settler, and in no event shall sale be made to a corporation either foreign or domestic; and all sales to a settler shall be upon the express condition that any sale, transfer, or conveyance of such land to a corporation, either immediate or remote, shall *ipso facto* terminate the title of the purchaser, and such land shall be forfeited to the State without re-entry, and become again a part of the particular fund to which it formerly belonged.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of the General Land Office to notify in writing the county clerk of each county of the valuation fixed upon each section of land in his county, and in each county attached to it for judicial purposes, which he offers for sale, which notification shall

be kept by the clerk in his office and recorded in a well bound book, which shall be open to public inspection.

SEC. 7. All lands belonging to the public free schools, university, and the several asylum funds, shall be sold at not less than two dollars per acre. All sections of lands having permanent water on, or bordering thereon, shall be sold at not less than three dollars per acre, and no less than one hundred and sixty acres shall be sold, except in cases where a fractional part of a section less than one hundred and sixty acres is unsold, in which case the entire fractional part of such survey shall be sold: *Provided*, That no watered portion of any section shall be sold unless there is permanent water on, or bordering on, the part of said section remaining unsold; and all timber land shall be sold at not less than five dollars per acre. By timber lands, as here used, is meant lands valuable chiefly for the timber thereon.

SEC. 8. Any *bona fide* actual settler who may reside on any part of the lands the sale of which is authorized by this act, at the time this act may go into effect, shall have the right, for a period of six months after the same shall have been appraised, to purchase such quantity of land as may be limited by this act, to include his improvements, upon complying with the provisions of this act regulating sales as in other cases, and such lands shall be appraised without reference to the improvements thereon: *Provided*, That any *bona fide* settler who owns one section, and no more, prior to this enactment, shall have the right to purchase three dry and strictly pastoral sections, upon his making oath that he is not acting in collusion with others for the purpose of buying the land for any other person or corporation, and that no other person or corporation is directly or indirectly interested in the purchase of the same: *Provided further*, That any purchaser and actual settler upon any of the public free school, university, and asylum lands, under any former law, who, for any cause, has failed to pay the principal and interest, or either, due the State upon such land, on the first day of August, A. D. 1886, and by reason of such failure or default such purchaser's land has or may be forfeited to the State, such purchaser shall have the prior right for six months from the date this act takes effect to purchase his said land, at such price as the unpaid principal at the time of default and the interest due thereon under such former purchase up to the time he purchases under this act shall aggregate. And such purchaser shall in all other respects be governed by the same penalties, restrictions, and requirements enjoined by this act upon other purchasers and actual settlers.

SEC. 9. All sales shall be made by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, or under his direction, and he shall prescribe suitable regulations whereby all purchasers shall be required to reside upon, as a home, the land purchased by them, for three consecutive years next succeeding the date of their purchase. Such regulations shall require the purchaser to reside upon the land for the three consecutive years herein mentioned, and to make proper proof of such residence and occupancy to the Commissioner of the General Land Office within one year next after the expiration of said three years, by his affidavit, corroborated by the affidavits of three disinterested and credible citizens of the county, to be certified to by some officer of the county wherein the land is situated, authorized to administer oaths. Any person desiring to purchase land in accordance with the provisions of this act, shall forward his application to the Commissioner, particularly describing the land sought to be purchased, which application shall, in all cases, be accompanied with the affidavit of the applicant, in effect that he desires to purchase the land for a home, and has in good faith settled

thereon; and he shall also swear that he is not acting in collusion with others for the purpose of buying the land for any other person or corporation, and that no other person or corporation is interested in the purchase save himself. The purchaser shall transmit to the Treasurer of the State one-fortieth of the aggregate purchase money for the particular tract of land and send to the Commissioner his obligation to the State, duly executed, and binding the purchaser to pay to the State, on the first day of August of each year thereafter, until the whole purchase money is paid, one-fortieth of the aggregate price, with interest thereon from date at the rate of five per cent per annum on the whole unpaid purchase money, which interest shall also be payable on the first day of August of each year; and upon receipt of one-fortieth of the purchase money by the Treasurer, and the affidavit and obligation aforesaid by the Commissioner, the sale shall be deemed and held effective from the date the affidavit and obligation are filed in the General Land Office: *Provided*, That if the land applied for be timbered land, then the purchaser shall be required to pay the full amount of the purchase money at the time of his purchase.

SEC. 10. All purchasers shall have the option of paying the purchase money for their lands in full at any time after they have occupied the same for three consecutive years; and when they have made such payment in full, together with the proof that they have occupied the land and homestead for three consecutive years, they shall be entitled to receive patents for the same upon payment of the patent fees prescribed by law. Purchasers may also sell their lands at any time after sale is effected under this act, and in such cases the vendee, or any subsequent vendee, may file his own obligation with the Commissioner of the General Land Office, together with the duly authenticated conveyance, or transfer, from the original purchaser, and the intermediate vendee's conveyance or transfer, if any there be, duly recorded in the county where the land lies, or to which it may be attached for judicial purposes, together with his affidavit stating that he desires to purchase the land for a home, and that he has in good faith settled thereon, and that he is not acting in collusion with others for the purpose of buying the land for any other person or corporation, and that no other person or corporation is interested in the purchase save himself; and thereupon the original obligation may be surrendered or cancelled, and the vendee shall become the purchaser direct from the State, and be subject to all the obligations and penalties prescribed by this act, and the original purchaser shall be absolved from further liability thereon: *Provided*, That whenever a town shall be located and established upon any land sold under this or any former act, the purchaser or his vendee shall be permitted to pay the entire balance of principal and interest due the State upon such land, and obtain a patent therefor at any time; but no such payment shall be permitted or patent issue until such purchaser or owner of such land shall file in the General Land Office a certified plat of such town, made by the proper surveyor of the county, which shall be accompanied by the affidavit of the owner of such land, corroborated by the affidavit of five disinterested and credible citizens of the county, to the effect that a town, giving its name, has been located and established upon the land, and that there has been erected therein, and being occupied by *bona fide* citizens, twenty business and residence houses, or either or both.

SEC. 11. If upon the first day of August of any year the interest due on any obligation remains unpaid, the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall endorse on such obligation "land forfeited," and shall cause an entry to that effect to be made on the account kept with the purchaser, and

thereupon said land shall be forfeited to the State, without the necessity of re-entry, or judicial ascertainment, and shall revert to the particular fund to which it originally belonged, and be resold under the provisions of this act or any future law: *Provided*, If any purchaser shall die, his heirs or legal representatives shall have one year in which to make payment after the first of August next after such death; and if any purchaser shall fail to reside upon and improve in good faith the land purchased by him, he shall forfeit said land and all payments made thereon to the State, and such land shall be again for sale, as if no such sale and forfeiture had occurred; or if he shall fail to make the proof of occupancy within the time and in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, as provided for in section (9) nine of this act, he shall in like manner forfeit the land and all payments thereon to the State: *And provided further*, That nothing in this section contained shall be construed to inhibit the State from instituting such legal proceedings as may be necessary to enforce such forfeiture, or to protect any other right to such land, which suits may be instituted by the Attorney-General, under the direction of the Governor, in the proper court of the county in which the land lies, or in the District Court of Travis County, and jurisdiction of such causes is hereby expressly conferred on said courts.

Sec. 12. The Commissioner of the General Land Office shall retain in his custody as records of his office all applications, affidavits, obligations, and all other papers relating to sales of said lands, and shall cause to be kept accurate accounts with each purchaser. All purchase money due upon lands, as well as accrued interest, and all other moneys arising from the sales or leases of said lands, shall be paid by the purchaser or lessee direct to the Treasurer of the State, who shall also cause an accurate account to be kept with each purchaser, and who shall execute duplicate receipts for all sums of money paid to him under the provisions of this act, one of which receipts shall be delivered to the purchaser, or his agent, and the other transmitted to the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Sec. 13. The Commissioner of the General Land Office shall adopt such regulations for the sale of the timber on timber lands as may be deemed necessary and judicious, such regulations to be subject to the approval of the Governor. Such timber shall not be sold for less than five dollars per acre cash, except in such cases as the Commissioner may ascertain by definite examination of a State agent that any particular section is sparsely timbered or contains timber of but little value, in which case he shall be authorized to sell the timber on said section at the best price on the best terms practicable: *Provided*, Such timber is sold at not less than two dollars per acre; and in no case shall less than one section of timbered land be sold to any purchaser, except in cases of fractional sections, which may be sold under the provisions of this act: *Provided*, That the purchaser shall have three years from the date of his purchase within which to remove the timber therefrom; and in case of failure so to do, such timber shall be forfeited to the State without judicial ascertainment.

Sec. 14. The public lands, and all lands belonging to the public free school, asylum, or university funds, shall be leased by the Commissioner of the General Land Office in accordance with the provisions of this act. Such leases shall be for a term of not more than five years, and the lessee shall pay an annual rental of four cents an acre for all pasture lands leased, which rental shall be paid each year in advance, the first payment to be made at the time the lease is executed; and if at the termination of the lease such land is still subject to lease, the lessee or lessees thereof, whose

term of lease is expired, shall have the refusal of such land as he has been leasing, on the terms and at the price that may be fixed therefor by the Commissioner of the General Land Office. All leases shall be executed under the hand and seal of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and shall be delivered to the lessee or his duly authorized agent, and such lease shall not take effect until the first annual rent is paid and the lease is duly filed for record in the county where the land lies, or to which it may be attached for judicial purposes, and it shall not be necessary for the Commissioner to acknowledge such lease before the same is placed on record.

SEC. 15. Any person desiring to lease any portion of the public lands, or the lands belonging to the several funds mentioned in this act, shall make application in writing to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, specifying and describing the particular lands he desires to lease; and thereupon the Commissioner, if satisfied that the lands applied for are not in immediate demand for purposes of actual settlement, and that such lands can be leased without detriment to the public interest, shall notify the applicant in writing that his proposition to lease is accepted; and thereupon he shall execute and deliver to the lessee, and in the name and by the authority of the State, a lease of said land for such term as may be agreed upon, and deliver the same to such lessee, when satisfied that the lessee has paid to the Treasurer of the State the rent for one year in advance. No lands classified as grazing land under this act shall be subject to sale during the existence of such lease, and the possession thereof by the lessee shall not be disturbed during the term of such lease so long as the rents are paid promptly in advance each year as required by this act. The lands classified as agricultural lands which may be leased under this act, shall be leased subject to sale as provided by this act, and whenever such leased lands may be purchased the lessee shall give immediate possession to such purchaser: *Provided*, That the lessee shall have a *pro rata* credit upon his next year's rent, or the money refunded to him by the Treasurer, as he may elect: *Provided*, That no such sale shall be permitted where such lessee shall have previously placed improvements of the value of one hundred dollars upon such section of land so sought to be purchased: *And provided further*, That no actual settler who shall purchase land within any leasehold shall be permitted to turn loose more than one head of cattle or horses for every ten acres of land purchased by him and unenclosed, or, in lieu thereof, four head of sheep or goats to every ten acres of land so purchased and unenclosed. Each violation of the provisions of this act which restricts the number of stock that may be turned loose on lands leased from the State shall be an offense, and the offender on conviction shall be punished by fine of not less than one dollar for each head of stock he may so turn loose, and each thirty days violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

SEC. 16. All lessees shall pay the annual rents due for leased lands directly to the Treasurer of the State, who shall execute receipts in duplicate for each payment made by any lessee, one of which receipts shall be delivered to the lessee, and the other transmitted to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The Treasurer shall cause to be kept an accurate account with each lessee, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall file in his office all applications and other papers relating to leases, and keep a record of all leases made, which papers shall constitute a part of the records of his office.

SEC. 17. If any lessee shall fail to pay the annual rent due in advance for any year, within sixty days after such rent shall become due, the Com-

missioner of the General Land Office may declare such lease cancelled, by a writing under his hand and seal of office, which writing shall be filed with the papers relating to such lease, and thereupon said lease shall immediately terminate, and the lands so leased shall become subject to purchase or lease, as the Commissioner may determine for the best interest of the State. And during the continuance of all leases, and after forfeiture, the State shall have a lien upon all the property upon the leased premises to secure the payment of all rents due, which lien shall be prior and superior to all other liens whatsoever, and it shall not be essential to the preservation or validity of such lien that it shall be reserved in the instrument of lease.

Sec. 18. It shall be unlawful for any person to fence, use, occupy or appropriate, by herding or line-riding, any portion of the public lands of the State, or of the lands belonging to any particular fund specified in this act, without having first obtained a lease of such lands in accordance with the provisions of this act. Any person, whether owner of stock, manager, agent, employe, or servant, who shall fence, use, occupy, or appropriate, by herding or line-riding, any portion of such lands without a lease thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, and in addition thereto shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a period of not less than three months nor more than two years. Each day of such fencing, using, occupying, or appropriating, by herding or line-riding, shall be deemed a separate offense, and any person so offending may be prosecuted, by indictment or information, in the proper court of the county where any portion of the land lies or to which it may be attached for judicial purposes, or in the county of Travis, and jurisdiction of such offenses is hereby vested in said courts; and in case any indictment or information is preferred or filed against a non-resident of this State for a violation of this section, it shall be the duty of the Governor to demand the extradition of the defendant from the proper officer of any State or Territory where he may be found, in order that he may be brought to trial. "Fencing," within the meaning of this act, is the erection of any structure of wood, wire, or both, or any other material intended to prevent the passage of cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, or hogs, whether the same shall enclose lands on all sides or be erected on one or more sides. Any appropriation of land belonging to any particular fund specified in this act, or of the public lands of this State, without first having obtained a lease thereof, by fencing of any kind, or by enclosures consisting partly of fencing and partly of natural obstacles, or impediments to the passage of live stock, shall be deemed an unlawful appropriation, punishable as provided in this section for appropriating such lands, and each day said land is so appropriated shall be deemed a separate offense.

Sec. 19. The provisions of this act as set forth in the preceding section, shall not apply to persons who are moving, or gathering, or holding for shipment any stock mentioned in said article: *Provided*, The said persons have not erected any fence on such lands, or continue on said lands longer than one week.

Sec. 20. All enclosures of or fences upon any portion of the public lands, or the lands belonging to the public free school, asylum, or university funds, without lawful authority, shall be removed within sixty days from the time this act shall take effect. If the Governor is informed at any time, upon the affidavit of some credible person, that any portion of the public lands, or lands belonging to the public free school, asylum, or university funds, have been enclosed, or that fences have been erected thereon,

without authority of law, he is authorized, in his discretion, to direct the Attorney-General to institute suit in the name of the State for the recovery of such land, and damages for the use and occupation of such land, and the removal of such enclosures and fences. Such suit may be instituted in the district court of any county where the land, or a portion thereof, is situated, or in the District Court of Travis County; and upon application of the Attorney-General, and without affidavit or bond, the clerk of the court in which suit is instituted shall issue a writ of sequestration, directed to any sheriff of the State of Texas, commanding and requiring such officer to take such land and all property thereon into his actual custody, and the same hold subject to the further orders of the court. Such writ of sequestration may be executed by any sheriff of the State into whose hands it may be delivered, and it shall be the duty of any sheriff into whose hands it may come, to proceed and execute such writ, and the Governor is required, in his discretion, to furnish such sheriff with the necessary force of volunteer militia or other military force of the State to accomplish the purposes of the writ and to execute the process of the court. The defendant in such writ may replevy, as in ordinary cases, by giving bond as prescribed by law, and such cases shall have precedence on the docket, and stand for trial before all other causes; and in case judgment is recovered by the State in such suit the court shall order such enclosures or fences to be removed, and shall tax the costs of suit, including the cost of the military force, if any, against the defendant, and all the property found upon the land belonging to the defendant shall be liable for such costs and damages in addition to the personal liability of the defendant. Appeals may be prosecuted from all judgments in such cases, as in ordinary cases, except that the State shall not be required to give bond to perfect its appeal, and such cases on appeal shall have precedence over all other causes.

SEC. 21. It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation who may have used any of the lands, by joining fences or otherwise, to build or maintain more than three miles lineal measure of fence, running in the same general direction, without a gateway in same, which gateway must be at least ten feet wide, and shall not be locked or kept closed so as to obstruct free ingress and egress: *Provided*, That all persons who have fences already constructed in violation of the provisions of this act shall have two months from the time this act takes effect within which to conform with the provisions hereof: *Provided further*, If any person or persons shall build or maintain more than three miles lineal measure running in the same direction, without providing such gateway, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than two hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, and each day that such fence remains without such gateway shall constitute and be punished as a separate offense: *Provided further*, That the construction of gates as provided for in this section shall apply only to pasture lands: *Provided further*, When herds of cattle, horses, sheep, or goats are driven through this State from one place to another place in this State, and it becomes necessary for such stock to pass through any enclosed pasture of any person who has leased any of the aforesaid lands, such lessee of such enclosure shall permit such stock to pass through such pasture: *Provided*, The owner of such stock so driven through any such enclosure shall move the same as expeditiously and with as little delay as practicable through such enclosure.

SEC. 22. The Commissioner of the General Land Office, under the direction of the Governor, may withhold from lease any agricultural lands necessary for purposes of settlement, or, in his discretion, he may lease such

agricultural lands in small quantities for a less period than five years, as the public interest and development of the country may seem to require; and no agricultural lands shall be leased if in the judgment of the Commissioner they may be in immediate demand for settlement, but such lands shall be held for settlement and sold to actual settlers only, under the provisions of this act; and all sections or fractions of sections in all counties organized prior to the first day of January, 1875, except El Paso, Pecos, and Presidio Counties, which sections are detached and isolated from other public lands, may be sold to any purchaser except to a corporation, at not less than two dollars per acre, upon such terms as the Commissioner of the General Land Office may prescribe.

SEC. 23. The sum of eighty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of the several funds belonging to the public free schools, asylums, and university, to pay the expenses of executing this act, which sum shall be apportioned between said funds according to their respective interests and the work necessary to be done, and shall be expended by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, with the approval and under the direction of the Governor.

SEC. 24. Leaseholds created under the provisions of this act shall be exempt from all taxation.

SEC. 25. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair, interfere with, or in any manner affect any lease or sale, or the rights growing out of the same, made under former laws, of the lands herein referred to: *Provided*, That any person or persons who have heretofore leased lands from this State at prices fixed by the Land Board, and whose leases are not yet expired, shall have their rental for the remainder of their unexpired term reduced to the prices charged under this bill for the lease of similar lands.

SEC. 26. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed; and the Secretary of the Land Board is hereby authorized and directed immediately upon the passage and approval of this act to deposit with the Commissioner of the General Land Office all the books, papers, and records belonging to or pertaining to said Land Board, and such books, papers, and records shall hereafter constitute a part of the records of the General Land Office.

Approved, April 1, 1887.

CORPORATIONS FOR DEEP WATER CHANNELS.

Sec.

1. Amends Title 20, Revised Civil Statutes, by adding Chapter 14.

Sec.

2. Emergency clause.

CHAP. 100.—[S. B. No. 116.] An Act to amend Title 20 of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, entitled Private Corporations, by adding another chapter thereto, to be styled Chapter Fourteen, authorizing the construction, owning, and operating deep water channels and docks.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:* That Title 20, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, be and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER FOURTEEN.

Article 644a. This title shall embrace and include the creation of private corporations for the purpose of constructing, owning, and operating deep water channels from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico along and across any of the bays on the coast of this State to the mainland, for the purposes of navigation and transportation, and for the construction, owning, and operating docks on the coast of this State for the protection and accommoda-